

Watauga Again Offers Meeting with Boone

Written by Steve Frank
Wednesday, 24 April 2013 13:48

Watauga County Manager Deron Geouque has written Boone Town Manager Greg Young, again offering times and locations for a meeting with the town over the 'Affordable Housing Standards' passed by the town that would kill the sale of the old Watauga High property. Geoque's letter, dated Tuesday, offers dates from Friday into the weekend, and contains the offer for 'a mediator' to take part, but again, only in an open session. The town of Boone has been insistent that the two governing bodies meet in private with a mediator, citing threats from county commissioners to seek legal action against the town due to the financial loss. After a number of exchanges over the past week, it would appear unlikely that the town would reply favorably, having issued a letter Monday stating that there is not enough time to reverse county action that will change the sales tax collection formula, costing the town some \$2 million annually, beginning in July.



WATAUGA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER
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April 23, 2013

Greg Young, Manager
Town of Boone
547 West King Street
Boone, NC 28607

Dear Greg:

In response to your letter dated April 19, 2013, the County, as previously stated and based on legal advice and approval by the opinion of the North Carolina School of Government, can only participate in an open meeting with the Town. The County proposes a meeting of the full Board and would offer April 26th or 27th, with the 26th to start any time after 5:30 PM or after 1:00 PM on the 27th for potential dates.

The County is still agreeable to the Town providing a mediator/moderator so long as the meeting remains open to the public. The County does agree with the Town's position of full disclosure to the public as stated in the April 19th response, thus the request by the County for an open meeting format.

Please confirm one of the dates so that appropriate notification can be provided to the media and public. The County is willing to provide the Commissioners' Board Room for the meeting location.

Respectfully,

Deron L. Geouque
County Manager

CC: Watauga County Board of Commissioners
Mayor and Boone Town Council